

**CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, MAY 5, 2008**

Council President Simms called the meeting to order at 7:07p.m.

Present: Councilmember Johnie L. Higgs, Sr., Councilmember John Morris, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Brian K. Shivers, Councilmember Elenora Simms,

Absent: Mayor Eugene Grant, Councilmember Charl Jones and Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Sandra A. Yates, Acting City Administrator; Dashaun Lanham, Acting City Clerk

The invocation was given by Councilmember Higgs

It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Jones to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Ella Lewis, Seat Pleasant Community Development Corporation-Ms. Lewis requested to use Goodwin Park gratis on Saturday, May 17, 2008. The City Council agreed to allow Ms. Lewis to use the Goodwin Park on the requested date.

**REPORTS**

Ms. Yates provided the City Council with a copy of the monthly report.

**ADMINISTRATION**

**GOVERNOR'S WELLMOBILE**

The City officially welcomed the University of Maryland School of Nursing Governor's Wellmobile Program to the City of Seat Pleasant on Thursday, May 1 2008. The program included remarks by Mayor Eugene W. Grant, Delegate Carolyn J.B. Howard, Dr. Jerry Greenberg, Chair, Seat Pleasant/University of Maryland Health Partnership and

Dr. Rebecca Wiseman, Director, Governor's Wellmobile Program. The event was well attended by residents, guests and the media and included a ribbon cutting ceremony.

## **SEAT PLEASANT DAY**

Our annual Seat Pleasant Day, held on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> was a resounding success. The day started with a well orchestrated and attended parade followed by a full day of activities and events at Goodwin Park. Changing the tone to include positive performances by local artists and performances seemed to have a calming effect on the mostly young crowd. The health fair done by students in the UMD Public Health Department was well attended and received. The annual BINGO tournament was also a big hit with seniors and young people alike. Ms. Dashaun Lanham did a yeoman's job of pulling the event together and executing it efficiently. We will be presenting a final report on Seat Pleasant Day to the Mayor and Council by the end of the month.

## **CITY ELECTIONS**

Candidate petition forms are ready for disbursement on Thursday, May 8, 2008. There will be a 60 day window for candidates to sign-up registered voters who support their candidacy. Completed petitions must be returned by 5:00 p.m. on July 8, 2008. Eligible candidates will be on the September 8, 2008 ballot.

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT/NUISANCE & ABATEMENT**

Our Code Enforcement Officer, Ms. Tiara Andrews, has been under the mentorship and training of Mr. Jerry Hampton, Director of Code Enforcement, City of Hyattsville. Mr. Hampton will continue to work with Ms. Andrews over the next several months to assist us with updating our code enforcement laws, instituting best practices and recommending professional training venues.

Ms. Andrews is working on a project to obtain current vehicle registration records for all City vehicles to ensure that all our vehicles are properly tagged and registered and that accurate records are being maintained and updated.

Ms. Darlinda Sanders, Acting Nuisance & Abatement Coordinator, has designed an educational CD-ROM on basic code issues to assist homeowners in abating common problems.

We continue to see an increase in voluntary abatements and a decrease in court appearances since the City moved from an enforcement to a compliance code enforcement policy.

Ms. Andrews is attending State's Attorney Glenn Ivey's "Municipal Infraction/Code Enforcement" Meeting at the Hyattsville Courthouse this evening at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be attended by judges, prosecutors, code enforcement officers throughout the county to come to a "meeting of the minds" about unfair adjudication of municipal infractions. I had an opportunity to speak with Mr. Ivey at Seat Pleasant Day at length about this meeting. We are both hopeful that municipalities will have more favorable results at court hearings in the future.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

A review and evaluation team comprised of City Attorney Fred Sussman, Ms. Gina Merritt, Economic Development Consultant, Ms. Sanders and me, met and held several conference calls times regarding the Eads Street Exclusive Negotiating Rights Agreement (ENRA) with Goodwin Partners. We recommended to the City Council that the ENRA be terminated.

Ms. Merritt and Ms. Sanders toured the City recently to locate potential properties that the City can purchase and demolish using our Community Legacy funds. About \$75K in demolition funds will expire on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Property bid recommendations will be forthcoming.

I will be touring the City this Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> with Ms. Merritt and representatives of SMWN, a New York firm that specialized in comprehensive planning. SMWN is interested in presenting a proposal to the City.

### **FINANCE**

A revised budget timetable will be sent to the City Council by COB tomorrow pending date confirmations with the City Treasurer to ensure his availability to Council.

Lindsey & Associates is still interested in conducting an internal audit for the City.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

A Public Works Director candidate has been identified. Reference checks are being conducted and a recommendation will be forthcoming to the City Council.

Our bus driver was stopped at a DOT roadblock and given a warning in lieu of a \$1,000 fine for driving the Call-a-Bus without a CDL. The second infraction is \$5,000.00. Staff was notified that the buses are to remain parked until a qualified driver is on staff. Two Public Works employees are in the process of obtaining CDLs. One has passed his DOT physical and is preparing to take the learner's permit written test; the second employee's DOT physical exam is scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup>. In the interim, the City will be hiring a part-time, temporary CDL driver/laborer. The position is being advertised this week. We have also contacted previous applicants who indicated they have a CDL.

I will be meeting with Brothers Services, Inc. this week to review roofing proposals to retrofit the Feggans Center roof to create a pitched roof façade.

Ms. Sanders and I will be preparing a bid proposal to replace the walkways, cements, basketball courts, and tennis courts at Goodwin Park using previously received Open Space funding. The City's two grants total approximately \$120,000 were received in 2005 and 2006.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mr. Ashton is preparing updated lease data for the City Council regarding police vehicles. It will be submitted by COB Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

The SPPD CompStat meetings are held every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. at the Resource Center. All elected officials are encouraged to attend.

City Council Committee did not have any reports for the month of January.

7b. Finance and Budget Committee-Councilmember Higgs provided a verbal report regarding the internal audit. He has requested the City Council to approve the auditor.

7c. Government Affairs & Technology Committee-Councilmember Yeargin stated that the committee did not have any items to meet to discuss.

7d. Human Services, Health and Education Committee-Councilmember Shivers stated that he needs to meet with his committee on Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 6:30p.m.

7e. Public Safety & Civil Right Committee-Councilmember Morris stated that his report was read by the City Administrator in her report regarding the police vehicles.

7f. Public Works & Transportation Committee will be meeting on Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 5:30p.m.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

8. Update on Resolution for Appointment of City Administrator-Councilmember Simms stated that the Resolution will be on the Public Session agenda next week, Monday, May 12, 2008.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

9. None

## **LEGISLATION**

10. None

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

11. None

## **ADJOURN**

It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs to adjourned the meeting. The motioned carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:01p.m.

Submitted,



Dashaun Lanham  
Acting City Clerk